

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:

The present ~~invention~~ application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/777,150 for: "Hash File System and Method for Use in a Commonality Factoring System" filed February 5, 2001 which claims priority from United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/183,762 for: "System and Method for Decentralized Data Storage" filed February 18, 2000, all the ~~disclosure~~ disclosures of which ~~[[is]]~~ are herein specifically incorporated by this reference.